

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of accessing requested content on a source content device connected to a network, said method comprising the steps of:

issuing a content access request identifying requested content;

determining the location of the source content device including the requested content in the network; and

accessing the requested content at the source content device.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein issuing a content access request identifying requested content comprises issuing a content access request including a program identifier.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein issuing a content access request identifying requested content comprises issuing a content access request including the title of the requested content.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining the location of the source content device including the requested content in the network comprises engaging an intelligent agent to determine the location of the source content device.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining the location of the source content device including the requested content in the network comprises examining the results from the intelligent agent for the information concerning the location of the source content device.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein accessing the requested content at the source content device comprises accessing the content at the source content device across the network.

7. A method of storing content on a content device for access by a network including one or more content devices, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving content for access by the network;
querying one or more content devices to ascertain storage capacity;
determining the content device with the optimum storage capacity; and
uploading the content to the content device with the optimum storage capacity.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein determining the content device with the optimum storage capacity comprises determining the content device with the largest amount of storage capacity.

9. The method of Claim 7, wherein uploading the content to the content device with the optimum storage capacity comprises utilizing a trickle method.

10. The method of Claim 7, wherein uploading the content to the content device with the optimum storage capacity comprises utilizing a high bandwidth push model.

11. The method of Claim 7, wherein uploading the content to the content device with the optimum storage capacity comprises utilizing a data carousel method.

12. The method of Claim 7, wherein uploading the content to the content device with the optimum storage capacity comprises utilizing an internet protocol method.